

A

REVIEW

OF THE

Affairs of *FRANCE*:

Wurg'd from the Errors and Partiality of *News-Writers*
and *Petty-Statesmen*, of all Sides.

Tuesday, April 25. 1704.

I Have but one Article to add to this Head, of the King of *France*'s Absolute Government of his People, and that relates to his being *Obey'd at Home*.

'Tis true, the little Insurrection in the *Cevennes*, is an Exception to the General Character of the French Submission; but if we consider the intollerable Pressure those People lie under, the Zeal they always had for their Religion, together with the Nature of the Mountainous People, which is known to be Fierce, Rash, and Desperate; add to this the Situation of their Country, the inaccessibles of their Mountains, to which they Retreat, the Numbers of People in the Country round, who were Friends to their Design, tho' afraid to venture: If we also consider the Circumstances of the French Affairs at the time they took up Arms, when they had good Reason to believe their hands were too full to spare a Number of Troops to Suppress them; we have more Reason to wonder this Rebellion has spread no farther, and that all *Languedoc* at least was not up in Arms.

And had not the Situation of the Country had this particular disadvantage to them, that no Foreign Power has been able to Assist them. I make no Question but the Seat of the War had been removed before

now, from *Italy* into *Languedoc*, *Guienne*, or *Dauphiné*.

I cannot but observe, before I quit this Head, That in my Opinion our States-men who pretend they care not to assist the *Camisars*, that it is Dishonourable to Encourage Rebellions and Insurrections in our Neighbours Dominions, and may prove of ill Example to our own: 'Tis my Opinion, these Gentlemen having first found the thing it self Impracticable, were rather willing to give a *sham Reason* for not. Attempting it, than confess the Improbability, or afterwards be Reflected upon for Attempting what was unlikely to succeed.

'Tis true the King of *France* in his Letter to the Pope, Charges the Duke of *Savoy* with Corresponding and Encouraging the *Camisars*, and tells how "they reckoned in *England* and *Holland*, as well as at *Vienna*, upon the Progress of the Phanaticks in *Languedoc*, on the Intelligence held by the Duke of *Savoy* with these Rebels, and the Succour he would send them.

If we did reckon so in *England*, I am sorry we were Mistaken; I confess I never was of the Opinion, that the Duke of *Savoy* in the best Circumstances we could expect to see him, could ever be able to pass the *Rhône*.

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We know he has a great deal of Work cut out for him; and suppose him very Fortunate and Successful, he must do more than any, or than all the Powers of Christendom have been able to do: the Glories and Conquests of King *William* shall be Trifles to his, and he shall be my Hero as long as I can write, or any Man can read; if he be able to Face the Duke de *Vendome*, carry on a War in the *Milanese*, against an Army of 50000 French and Spanish Troops, Defend himself against the Duke de *Feuillide* on the side of *Nice*, and the Marshal de *Tesse*, or whoever shall Succeed him on the Frontiers of *Dauphine*, and at the same time force his way thro' the *Heads of Provence*; Pals the Greatest River on that side of *Europe*, the *Rhône*; beat the Marshal de *Montrevel*, and joyn the *Camisars*.

I think I am within Bounds, if I say the Year the Duke of *Savoy* does all this, he may e'en Traverse the whole Kingdom of *France*, advance to the Capital, and lie down under the Walls of *Paris*.

And therefore I must ask his most Christian Majesty's Pardon, if I do not agree with that part of his Letter to the Pope, and cannot think that the *English* or *Dutch*, or the Duke of *Savoy* himself, could build their Hopes on the Success of those Poor People, or on the Hopes of joyning them.

If ever the *Camisars* are reliev'd, it must be by strong Diversions, which must oblige the King to withdraw his Troops, and leave the *Camisars* Room to Descend from the fastnesses of the Mountains, possess themselves of the plain Country, and open the Door of Deliverance on the *Inside*, for from without, it cannot be expected, but by Means wholly Preternatural and Miraculous.

If the Duke of *Savoy* can be put into a Posture to do this, I believe all the Members of the Confederacy will be heartily glad; and there is no doubt, but as we are Protestants, we should all be glad to see the *Camisars* strong enough to Establish themselves in the full Possession of their Liberty, as to Religion, and become a Body able to Capitulate with their King, for Restoring the Publick Exercise of the Protestant Worship.

As to Relieving them, and Supplying them with Arms and Money, 'tis wasting our Time to Debate, whether 'tis Lawful or not, when we have once found that 'tis not Practicable: Let but any of those Gentlemen make it out to me, that it is to be done, and shew the Possibility of the thing, I'll enter upon the Legality and Honour of it with them, with all my Heart.

We have, as I am inform'd, a Book Publish'd, Entitl'd *Europe Enslav'd*, if the *Camisars* are not Reliev'd, or to that purpose, I am far from being of that Gentleman's Opinion; *Europe* was in but a very sorry Case, if her Liberty depended upon the Relief of this Poor, Despicable handful of Men, who tho' we were willing to Acknowledge all they have done to be as great as has been Related, yet have no way Influenced the Affairs of *Europe*, other than the small Diversion they have given the *French*, in Employing 18 Battalions of Foot, and 2 Regiments of Dragoons in *Languedoc*, which otherwise must have been found by way of Addition in some other Place.

But that *Europe* is any nearer Slavery, than she was before, 'tho' these Miserable People were all Destroy'd; I can by no means allow any more, than *Europe* is to be Enslav'd, if the *Hungarian* Rebels are not Suppres'd.

I cannot but Declare against the hast these Men are in, to have that done, which they cannot shew us the way to do, and which all the Methods they have offer'd, are as far from Effecting, that they cannot amount to so much as a Rational Prop.

This most particular Gentleman proposes Landing 6000 French Refugees, under the Protection of an *English* Fleet, in the Gulph of *Lyons*, but will not tell us where, lest the Enemy should Fortify it, as it the *French* did not already know as well as we can propose, what Place is most Expos'd; we do not find them so Ignorant in other Parts of their Country.

But if 6000 Men were Landed, the Marshal de *Montrevel* would give but a very indifferent Account of himself, if he suffered 6000 Men to March 25 Leagues by

by Land unsought with; when to be sure he will at least have three times their Number of Troops; he must not Aft like a Marshal of France, nor be fit to be Trusted with the Command of an Army.

Tis certain, to Land 6000 Men in such a manner, would be to sacrifice so many Brave Lives to a Desperate Project, and in which there would not be likelyhood enough to Justify it to Common Discretion; and I dare say no General Officer in Europe would have Foresight little enough to accept the Command of them.

If Europe must be Enslav'd unless these unlikely things are done, 'tis very strange the Princes of the Confederacy have never thought fit to undertake it; nor, as I can understand, so much as ever consulted about it; 'tis strange they should not see the Danger to themselves all this while, and consequently make the strongest Efforts, where they saw so much Necessity.

Our Concern for them as Protestants, is what it ought to be, and we are justly led to pity them. A Christian Compas-sion is due to them, and no Man can read

the Story of their Sufferings, without being touch'd with the Sense of their Mis-eries. But we cannot undertake Impossi-bilities; we can no more Relieve them, till it shall please God to give some farther Suc-cess to the Confederate Forces, (than we yet see a Prospect to hope for), than we can over-run France, or beat the French Armies out of the Field.

I heartily wish this was not true, and that they who are so eager for this Work, would find out a seable way to bring it to pass.

The only way I know, is for the Mare-shal de Montrevil to make another Ra-vage, and Destroy all that part of Lang-yedoc with Fire and-Sword: This would make all the rest of the People Des-pe-rate, and in time they would all fly to the Camisars, and so they might come to be 30 or 4000; and then perhaps they might extend themselves to the Sea Coast, and secure some small Port, from whence they might be furnish'd by Sea, with Arms and Ammunition, and then their Deliverance would be prob-able; but till then I give them over for lost.

Mercure Scandale : O R, A D V I C E from the Scandalous C L U B.

THIS Paper having been Treating of the *Camisars*, it caus'd the Society to call before them the Author of the *Daily Courant*, who was accused of Scandalizing the poor Protestants of the *Cevennes*, and charging them with most unheard of Cruelties and Barbarities; which he was desir'd to produce his Authorities to prove.

The Paper was produc'd and read, Cour-
rant March... 1704.

The *Camisars* Descending into the plain Country, had begun their accustomed Cruel-ties and Barbarities, in Pulling down Crosses and Demolishing Churches.

Being Demanded whether these Crosses were living Creatures or no; he answer'd No: And being then at a loss how to make out the Cruelties of pulling them down, he was oblig'd to submit; and the Clerk read on:

Courant, March 11.

The Duke of Mole's Estate was Confis-cated at Naples, he being found Guilty of Felony against the King.

The Society Demanded of him what sort of Crime that must be; he Instanc'd in his Conspiring with the *Imperialists*, but cou'd not make it out to be Felony; for it must be Treason or nothing.

Whate.

Whereupon he was Order'd to write to the Vice-Roy, to Demand the Duke's Estate again, or else to let us know his Crime.

Courant, March. 30.

One of our Parties in Flanders, surpriz'd an Out-Guard of the Enemies, and might have taken several of their Horses, if the Enemy had not come and made them run away.

This was such remarkable News, and so Good, the Society thank'd him for it; for by the same Rule, they might have taken all Flanders, if No Body had beat them away.

The Flying-Post had a long Charge brought against him, but there not being Time to go thro' with it, the Club began with his Paper of April the 11th.

The King of Poland has an Army of 50000 Pound.

The Post-Boy of the same date tells us;

The Earl of Marlborough Embark'd for Flanders.

Ditto.

The Laboratory at Munick was blown up, by which the Hungarians will have a great loss.

Post-Boy March. 30.

The Packet-Boat was driven back to Harwich by a North-West Wind; which every Man knows is the fairest Wind can blow for them.

The Nonsense of all these things had their Due Censure, and are referr'd to the Next sitting.

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